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Latest from the Army of the Potomac.

[From the Phil. Inquirer.]

WASHINGTON, May 2, P. M.—During Friday there was no firing between the troops on this side of the river below Fredericksburg, a large majority of the Confederates having evidently been withdrawn for the purpose of aiding their comrades in resisting the Federal forces in the rear. In fact during the morning they could be seen passing along the crest of the hill, some forty or fifty pieces of artillery accompanying them. On this (Saturday) morning at half past seven o'clock, the Confederates opened with a light battery, and immediately afterwards their ten pound Parrotts, planted on the crest, nearly a mile below, chimed in, the latter evidently with the intention of destroying the lower bridge. The guns on the left, among them those of Captain Ricketts' Pennsylvania Battery, returned the fire vigorously. Subsequently the Confederates used the Whitworth gun on the extreme left, but we did not suffer any loss. The Federal forces upon the south bank of the river, immediately opposite, screened themselves as best they could, from the cross fire, and were uninjured.

Firing was heard at the same hour from our army in the rear of Fredericksburg, and some of their shell could be seen exploding among the Confederates, who were thus between two fires. The position at Chancellorville could not be excelled, for not only must they fight, in an open field of our own selection, but if they retreat they retreat they will be harassed by flank and rear. From Chancellorville, a village of but one house, a plank road runs west to Culpeper, via Germania Ford, and a turnpike by way of Ellis's Ford. It is also connected with Gordonsville and Fredericksburg by turnpike, and with the latter place also by a plank road. The General has it is said taken by surprise, and, in proof of the same, we have, among other trophies, a despatch, dated April 29th, from General Lee to one of his engineer officers, in which he states that he was very much surprised at the movement, as he had not anticipated it, and was unprepared to give him any instructions.

About noon on Friday, General Sykes' Division moved by the Banks' Ford road to attack the Confederates. Heavy skirmishing commenced, the Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry for some time acting brilliantly in the front, and the fight soon becoming general, the Confederates engaged being the brigades of Posey, Wilcox and Mahone, under Anderson. It was kept up for an hour and the Confederates finally driven from two strong positions. At half past one an order to fall back was given. Gen. Hooker had received information of an important change in the position and plans of the Confederates, and believing that they would follow General Sykes up ordered the retirement. The ruse was successful. Thinking they had checked us they followed rapidly, and scarcely had Sykes regained his original position at the ford of the bridge, before they appeared on the crest and giving a yell, came down the double-quick. A crash of musketry from the Federal line and then the roar of artillery was heard. The fight lasted three-quarters of an hour, and the foe was driven back. Later in the day, they again essayed an attack. Geary's Division and Hampton's Battery, and later General Williams, with three batteries, kept them at bay. About half-past six a desperate charge was made for the Fed-

eral batteries on the plank road on the right. Geary met them promptly, and Knapp's and Hampton's (Pennsylvania) guns opened. In fifteen minutes they were repulsed with heavy loss, and many of their dead and wounded were enveloped in the flames issuing from the woods set fire to by the shells.

In General Sykes' fight, early in the afternoon, about one hundred of the Federals were killed and wounded.

Among the casualties is the death of Lt. Col. McVickar, commanding the Sixth N. Y. Cavalry, which occurred on Thursday night, during a reconnoissance towards Spottsylvania Court House.

The following statement is derived from gentlemen who left the Rappahannock on Saturday.

They confirm the statement, already published, that the Federal army has crossed the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers with less opposition than was anticipated by the most sanguine.

The Confederates massed a considerable force on their front on Thursday, and at midnight there was some artillery practice between the Federal and the Confederate guns, at long range.

As soon as the Confederates learned on Wednesday that the Federal forces had crossed above Fredericksburg, they commenced moving troops to intercept the advance, and continued it all night, and the following day.

Trains were constantly running with troops from Richmond, and the Confederates had concentrated all their available troops around Fredericksburg.

The latest news from Chancellorville, about ten miles southwest of Fredericksburg, now occupied by the Federal forces, is, that General Stoneman's cavalry force had cut the railroad leading to Richmond. This is stated on the assertion of a gentleman connected with the civil department of the Government, who arrived at Washington on Saturday morning.

CHANCELLORVILLE, Va., May 1.—The Army of the Potomac is this morning at Chancellorville, ten miles West of Fredericksburg.—Not the entire army, but nevertheless an army is here.

The account of a gentleman who left Fredericksburg on Wednesday evening represents the citizens as fleeing in every direction. It is believed the city will be shelled and all property destroyed. A complete panic prevails throughout the whole country.

Stuart, Lee and Hampden, with the whole cavalry force, were in Culpeper, watching Stoneman. They have all been intercepted by the national infantry.

A brigade at United States Ford barely escaped, leaving all their camp equipage behind. Wheelock's Brigade marched out from Fredericksburg, intending to check the advance of Hooker's army, but hearing of the magnitude of the movement, he ordered back his brigade, which retired to the fortifications.

Generals Lee and Jackson are in command at Fredericksburg. Longstreet is at Suffolk, and A. P. Hill and Picket are in North Carolina. Four brigades are three miles on this side of the city, with orders to fall back to the rifle pits at the approach of the Yankees.

The train from Richmond failed to arrive in Fredericksburg yesterday, and it is believed the railroad has been cut by a portion of our cavalry sent out for the purpose.

The troops from Germania, Elys and United States Ford have joined.

Another account in one of the New York papers contains the following:

In crossing, we lost one or two officers kill-

ed, and from 30 to 40 men wounded. Our men crossed in boats, and drove the enemy out of their rifle pits, killed and wounded many, and took 106 prisoners, including several officers, one of whom was Lieut. Col. Hammond, of the Sixth Louisiana.

Our forces have captured between five and six hundred prisoners. Many of these prisoners have voluntarily come over to us, having thrown away their arms in small squads.

The position of our batteries was relatively the same as at the fight in December, when the crossing was made by the same troops at the same point, and when our artillery and infantry were complimented for their gallantry. The fire from the rebel rifle pits was terribly severe upon our infantry, who were utterly unprotected while they were making preparations to cross.

The Brooklyn Fourteen, Sixth Wisconsin and Twenty-fourth Michigan, lost the most heavily, and all their losses occurred before the river was crossed. Other regiments also lost in killed and wounded. The whole number of our casualties was nine killed and fifty-seven wounded. The Confederate killed found on the field were twelve, and their wounded, who were taken prisoners, five.—Others of them were killed or wounded, undoubtedly. They were of the Thirteenth Ga. and Sixth La. regiments.

At the crossing on the extreme left a skirmish took place. The Federals made a charge on some rifle-pits. In the engagement we met with a loss of nine killed and fifty-seven wounded.

By the arrival of the British brig Hannah, from Matamoras April 2d, it is learned that the schooner John L. Gentry, from New York, with a general cargo, was seized by the Confederates after she had entered in the custom house, and was run over to the Texas side.—She was immediately claimed by the Mexican authorities, when the Confederates tried to compromise with her Captain. He has put in a claim for \$60,000 damages and would probably get it.

The Washington Criminal Court, which has been in session for some time, adjourned on Saturday. The special term of the court will be held in about ten days. In the meantime the Supreme Court, or court for civil business, is to hold its session.

The name of the editor of the Atlanta (Ga.) Confederacy, arrested in New York, a few days ago, and sent to Fort Lafayette, is Hambleton. He had in his trunk \$15,000 in South Carolina and Georgia bank bills and \$15,000 in Confederate notes.

The hostility of the Japanese towards foreigners has finally found official expression.—The Shanghai Recorder gives the translation of an order issued by the Mikado, or Emperor, repudiating the treaties made with foreign nations by the Tycoon, and directing the expulsion of the "ugly barbarians."

The property of ex-Governor Joel A. Matteson, of Illinois, was sold on the 27th ultimo, for the benefit of the State. It will be remembered that some years ago a deficit was discovered in the treasury of that State, having originated in part, as was believed, by the complicity of Governor Matteson.